

## CLAIMS

1. A method for solving a plurality of formula-related function calculations and conversions commonly encountered in the machinist trade comprising the steps of:

a. providing a hand-held calculating apparatus having a visual display and a  
5 keyboard including one or more key groupings for selecting a specialized function for calculation;

b. depressing one of a plurality of function keys to initiate the selected function for calculation;

c. causing one or more user prompts to appear on a visual display in a  
10 predetermined sequence for said selected function calculation;

d. manually entering numerical information required for the selected function calculation in response to said user prompts and temporarily storing said numerical information;

e. calculating said selected function using said temporarily stored numerical information; and

15 f. displaying a numerical result for said selected function.

2. The method of Claim 1 comprising the additional steps of providing one or more memory locations for storing the numerical result of a selected function calculation and selectively storing said numerical result for said selected function calculation in said one or more memory locations for later recall.

20 3. The method of Claim 1 comprising the additional steps of reviewing previously entered numerical information required for the selected function calculation, checking the accuracy of said numerical information for the current function calculation, and modifying said numerical information as necessary.

4. The method of Claim 1 comprising the additional step of prompting the user by displaying a special character when previously stored numerical information is of the same type information required for use with the selected function calculation and recalling said previously temporarily stored numerical information of the same type for use in the selected function  
5 calculation.

5. The method of Claim 1 comprising the additional step of converting numerical information to be entered for use in the selected function calculation or numerical results of the selected function calculation between and among English and metric dimensional measuring systems and decimal and fractional values of said numerical information.

10 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein the function calculation is selected from the group of formula-related functions consisting of revolutions per minute, surface feet per minute, inches per minute, feed per tooth and cut-time.